Sad and ſerious Politicall

CONSIDERATIONS,

Touching the invaſive War againſt our Presbyterian Proteſtant Brethren in *Scotland*, their late great Overthrow, and the probable dangerous conſequences thereof to both Nations and the Proteſtant Religion.

Which may ſerve as a

SATISFACTORY APOLOGY

for ſuch Miniſters and People, who out of Conſcience did not obſerve the publike Thankſgiving, againſt their Covenant, for the great ſlaughter of thoſe their Brethren in Covenant.

Printed in the Yeer 1650.

CONSIDERATIONS

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Sad and Serious Politicall Considerations.

THE English Independents new invasive War against their Presbyterian Protestant Brethren of Scotland, and late great rout and slaughter of their Army, meeting with variety of censures and constructions, according to the diversity of mens inclinations and interests, some prudent Christians, ingaged to no parties, whose interest is onely the preservation, propagation and safety of the reformed Protestant Religion against the common Enemies and Underminers thereof, have these sad melancholy apprehensions thereof; That it is a dolefull Prologue and tragicall Scene, not onely to the approaching ruine and desolation of both Kingdoms for their manifold crying sins, but likewise to the speedy subversion of the true Protestant Religion, and extirpation of all zealous Professors thereof through our three Kingdoms, and in forraigne parts, upon these ensuing considerations.

1. That the Kingdoms of England and Scotland make up the greatest Body of the Protestant Religion in Christendom, being best able to defend themselves, and succour other Reformed Churches, when indangered and designed to ruine by Popish Enemies, as the Lords and Commons declared long since in their *Protestation to this Kingdom and the whole world, 22. *Octob.* 1642. and in their Order of the seventh of *October* 1643. And therefore the ruine of the Protestant Party in these Kingdoms, is the readiest way to indanger, conquer, ruine all other Reformed Churches in the world, and extirpate the Protestant Religion in all other Countries, as they there likewise Declare.

* *Exact Collection p. 663, 666. A Collection of Orders & Ordinances, p. 354.*

2. That the Pope of Rome, Jesuites, Priests, Papists, and their Confederates, upon this ground, have for many years last past, by open force, and secret practices, endeavoured

the extirpation of the Protestant Religion and most zealous Professors thereof throughout these Kingdoms, and made it their chiefest designe to reduce them to their pristine obedience to the See of Rome, which by the Popish Negotiations with Spain, the Papisticall Match with France, the Agency of the Popes *Nuncio's*, the practices of Priests and Jesuites in England (countenanced and protected against the force of Lawes) and the confederacy of Popish Prelates, Clergie-men and Courtiers with them in these Designes, they had almost totally accomplished and brought to full perfection in all our Realms; as the whole House of Commons in their *Remonstrance of the state of the Kingdom*, 15. *Decemb.* 1641. and other subsequent Declarations; and they and the Scottish Commissioners in their Impeachments against the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, largely remonstrate.

Exact Collection, p. 4. to 14. 97. 98. 508.

3. That the most zealous Protestants, then branded with the name of Puritans and Presbyterians in England and Scotland, were the principall and only obstacles to the finishing of this their neare compleated Work. Whereupon the * Jesuiticall, Popish and Prelaticall prevailing Faction resolved to root them out of this Kingdom by force, or drive them out with fear, and rid them all out of the way. For the better effecting whereof, they thought it necessary to reduce Scotland to such Popish Superstitions and Innovations, as might make them apt to joyn with England in that great change which was intended: Whereupon new Popish Canons and a Liturgy reformed much after the modell of the Papists Missalls, were prest upon them; and all the Arminian and Popish Doctrines broached, maintained, and new Popish Ceremonies practised in England, were indeavoured to be planted and set up in † Scotland.

* *Exact Collection*, p. 10. 199 492, 493.

† M. Baylies Canterburians Self-conviction. *The Scots Impeachment against Archbishop* Lawd.

4. That this their dangerous ripened Designe finding no publike, but onely private opposition in England by particular persons, who were fined, * pillori'd, stigmatized, deprived of their ears, close imprisoned, banished and ruined by the Star-Chamber and High-Commission, to the publike terror of all others; thereupon the Scottish Puritans and

* *Exact Collection*, p. 10. 11. 12. 492.

Presbyters

Presbyters were the first visible Instruments raised by God to give a publique check to their successefull design, beyond their or our expectations.

5. That hereupon the † Jesuiticall and Prelaticall Popish Party raised two severall Armies successively to suppresse and extirpate the Puritan and Presbyterian Party in Scotland, as the only *remora's* to their design; and were most active and forwards in their leavies and contributions against them; indeavouring to ingage the Protestant Party in both Nations in a bloudy civill Warre to their mutuall ruine; to which the Puritan and Religious party in England were most averse. First privately murmuring, and afterwards publiquely protesting against this Warre, as dishonourable and dangerous to Religion and both Kingdomes in the Parliament, in *April* 1640. purposely summoned to raise moneys to carry on that War, which they refused to grant to so ill a purpose, and did all they could to blast their malicious designs and warre against Scotland; whereupon the Popish party caused that Parliament to be dissolved, and did all they could by violent arbitrary courses, and illegall Loanes and Taxes, to raise Forces and moneys to maintain a warre against them; imprisoning and prosecuting those, who resisted or refused to assist them in this warre, in the self-same manner as those in present power have done, divers of their Christian Brethren for manifesting their dislike and backwardnesse to assist them in this ungodly invasive warre against their Protestant Brethren in Covenant against many publique Ingagements, and not giving publique thanks to God for their late overthrow.

† *Exact Collection*, p. 10, 11. 12. 33. 97. 492. 508. 594. 595. *A Collection*, p. 308. 309. 354. 417. 419. 457. 458.

6. That the Scottish Puritans and Presbyterians advance with their Army into England, in the year 1640. of purpose to preserve the Religion, and protect themselves and their English Brethren from slavery and ruine, was the * principall and only means under God, of preventing their own and our thraldome to popery and Tyranny, of frustrating all the Jesuites, Papists and Prelates designs, of securing Religion, Laws, Liberties, and convening the last Parliament; which

* *Exact Collection*, p. 11. 12. 13. 199. 492. 493. 508.

which through Gods blessing on their indeavours, through the assistance of the Scottish Commissioners, and countenance of their Army, over-powered the Popish and Prelaticall Faction, brake all their former Projects in pieces, suppressed all their Popish Innovations, Doctrinall and Ceremoniall, reconciled the differences between both Nations, setled a firm unity and amity between them, by an Act of Oblivion and Pacification, abolished the High-Commission, Star-Chamber, Extravagances of the Councell-Table, the Bishops Courts, and Votes in Parliament, Ship-money, Impositions, and all other illegall Taxes; quickned the Laws against Jesuites, Priests and Popish Recusants; passed a Law for Triennuall Parliaments, and another against the untimely adjourning, proroguing and dissolving of themselves at the Kings own pleasure, and thereby put our Religion, Laws, Liberties and Properties in a farre better condition of security, and the Popish and Prelaticall party into a farre worse, and more hopelesse and desperate condition then ever heretofore.

† *Exact Collection*, p. 17. 18. 98. 229. 493.

7. That to prevent and frustrate these Laws and this security, the † Jesuiticall and Prelaticall party whilest they were in agitation, indeavoured all they could by subtill practices, slanders, and private solicitations, to raise jealousies and divisions between the Scottish Commissioners and Army, and the Parliament, to ingage the Scottish and English Armies each against other, or to make the Scots stand neutrall to the Parliament, that so they might bring up the English Army from the North to London to over-awe and suppresse them, and hinder the Union between both Kingdomes; which through the fidelity of the Scots, and of some Officers in the English Army, was timely discovered, prevented, and a firme Union between both Kingdomes setled by Acts of Parliament, passed in the Parliaments of both Nations.

8. That these Acts of Pacification and Union between both Kingdomes, and the Religious party of both Nations, the extirpation of Prelacy and the Popish Hierarchy, and

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the establishing of a Presbyterian Government and Uniformity in Doctrine, Worship and Discipline in both Kingdoms were apprehended, prosecuted and resolved upon by the most religious Protestant party and * Parliaments of both Nations, as the readiest, probablest, and most effectuall means under God to preserve and secure their Religion, Lawes, Liberties, against all future invasions, and to frustrate all Popish and Prelaticall Designes against them, and were accordingly † esteemed and looked upon by the adverse Popish and Prelaticall party, who thereupon attempted with all their policy and power, to uphold Prelacy, and retard and prevent the establishment of Presbytery, as fatall to all their hopes and Designes; and thereupon improved all their interest both at home, and with forraigne Princes, to raise what Forces they could, to break this Designe and the Parliament too, before they should accomplish it.

* *Exact Collection*, p. 594. *to* 605. *A Collection*, p. 309. *to* 313 327. 358. 359. 390. 399 404. 410. 420. *to* 428. 458. 453.

† *Exact Collection*, p. 97, 98 218. 564.

9. That when the Jesuiticall, Popish and Prelaticall party in England, Ireland, Scotland, and forraigne parts, had taken up Arms, and raised great Forces to hinder the settlement of the Presbyterian Government, suppresse the late Parliament, subvert the Protestant Religion, introduce Popery and Tyranny, extirpate the Puritan and Religious party in England and Ireland, and were grown very strong and prevalent in both, the * Scottish Presbyterians (now invaded and defeated) out of their brotherly love, and Christian affection, in this extremity of danger, for the preservation of our Religion, Liberties, Lawes, Parliament, and the godly party in England & Ireland, at both Houses earnest solicitation, did readily and chearfully assist us with their Forces in both Kingdoms, and thereby, through Gods blessing, were a great means of weakening and subduing our Enemies, and preserving our Religion, Lawes, Liberties, Lives, from utter destruction; which brotherly assistance, with so powerfull an Army of above twenty thousand Horse and Foot in our greatest dangers, was so welcome to us, that the House of Commons on the second of February 1643. † Ordered, publike thanks should be given in all Churches for the aid and assistance

* *Exact Col.* p. 56. 57. 58. 666 564 *to* 605. *A Collection*, p. 308. *to* 312. 354. 355. 363. 371. 372. 428. 441. 467. 677. &c. 665. 711. 767. 798. *to* 810. 933.

† *A Collection*, p. 428.

assistance come in by our Brethren of Scotland: And when the malignant party there, in their absence for our preservation, had prevailed and routed only some few of their Forces (nothing considerable in comparison of those lately slain and defeated) left behind for their defence, both Houses were so sensible thereof, that they appointed a speciall Day of Humiliation for the miseries of Scotland throughout all the Parliaments Quarters by their * Order of 2. *September* 1645. which was accordingly observed; so much did they and we then condole the least overthrow and misery of our Scottish Brethren in Covenant (being members of the self-same Body of Christ) as if it had been our own: Whereas now on the contrary, we invade, slay, destroy and ruine these our brotherly Assistants, rejoyce & triumph at their misery, appoint publike Dayes of Thanksgiving throughout the whole Nation for their great slaughter and overthrow, and hang up the Ensignes taken from them in Westminster Hall, as publike trophies and testimonies to succeeding ages of our gratitude and brotherly kindnesse towards them, and of our religious observation of our solemne Nationall League and Covenant with them, not long since made and entred into upon their coming in to our assistance.

* *A Collection, p.721.*

10. That in the extremity of our dangers, by the prevailing Popish party, the † Parliaments, Ministers, and religious people both of Scotland and England did resolve it most necessary, and essentiall for Gods glory and their safety, to enter into a more sacred and stricter union then formerly, for defence of their Religion, King, Parliament, Lawes, Liberties, the extirpation of Popery, of Prelacy, and the bringing of all our Kingdoms to uniformity in Doctrine, Worship and Discipline, by a solemne Nationall League and Covenant, as the onely means under God, to prevent all future differences and breaches between all the godly people of both Nations, to preserve and secure Religion, Lawes, Liberties, and priviledges of Parliament, against all present and future attempts whatsoever, and dash in pieces all the designes, practices, hopes of the Jesuiticall and

† *A Collection, p.309. 310 311. 312. 327. 358. 359. 390. 399. 404. 416. 424. to. 428. 458. 459. 694. 751. 768. 769. 798. 802. 806. &c. 878. 879. 889.*

and Prelaticall Faction in all our Kingdoms: which League and Covenant was accordingly agreed upon by the Parliament, and Assemblies of Divines in both Kingdomes, and after that most chearfully and solemnly taken and subscribed, not only by the *Scottish* Parliament, Army, Clergy, and Generality of that Nation, but by all the Members of both Houses of our Parliament, the generality of all the godly Ministers and people in *England* and *Ireland*; and by all, or most Officers and Souldiers in the Parliaments Armies; who many of them carried it in their hats, hands, and fixed to their pikes as they matched, and amongst others it was taken and subscribed by * *Oliver Cromwell* himself and *Ireton*; and every man by Ordinances of both Houses, was disabled to injoy or exercise any Civill or Military Office, or place of Trust whatsoever in the State or Army, who did not solemnly take and subscribe it; whereupon it was almost universally taken and subscribed in a most sacred and solemn manner throughout the Kingdome, and followed with many glorious Victories and Successes, till the Popish and Prelaticall Malignant party in England were totally subdued; all Counties, and Garrisons fully reduced to the Parliaments Command; and a happy *Peace* and settlement of our Religion, Laws, Liberties upon most safe and honourable terms, indeavoured, expected, and almost accomplished by a personall Treaty, with the KING in the Isle of Wight.

* *A Collection of Ordinances*, p. 426.

11. That to prevent this *Peace* and *Settlement*; the † Officers of the Army (who love to make a Trade of War, thereby to gain and keep all Civill and Ecclesiasticall power in their own hands, and to inrich themselves with our three Kingdoms spoils and ruine) confederating with some few Members of the Commons House against their Trust, duty, Oaths, Protestations, the very Letter of this solemn League and Covenant, and all the ends thereof, forcibly seized, condemned and beheaded the late King, secured and secluded the greatest part of the Commons House addicted to the Presbyterian Government, suppressed the whole House of

† *The History of Independency.*

Lords, disinherited the Kings Posterity of the Crown, subverted the fundamentall Government of the Kingdome; usurped all Regall and Parliamentall Authority to themselves; and by colour thereof, now trample all Laws, Liberties, and Priviledges of Parliament under feet; remove all or most zealous Presbyterians (though never so eminent Actors and sufferers for Religion and the publique weal) out of all Offices and places of power and Trust throughout the Nation; discourage and discountenance all or most Presbyterian Ministers, especially the most pious; banish some, imprison others, recall the Sequestrations, and substract the Augmentations, and Tithes of all or most of them, to starve and ruine them; withdraw themselves from their Ministery, suborn or tolerate their monethly Prognosticators, and *Diurnalists* to revile and rail openly against them in print, without the least controul, and to prognosticate their and their Presbyterian Governments downfall, to incense the people against them and it; invent and prescribe new Oaths, Ingagements, Publications, Observacions of Thanksgivings, and Humiliations, and other snares and engines, thereby to insnare either their Consciences, or indanger their Estates, Liberties, Ministery, Persons in their plundring Committees, and new Arbitary Judicatories; declare against the solemn League and Covenant as expired, abolished, yea, and dangerous and unlawfull to be kept, set up and inforce an Anti-Covenant Engagement to frustrate, null, and abjure it, debar all from all publike Offices, Preferments, Augmentations, degrees of Learning, the practise of the Law, and the very benefit of the Laws of England, (for which we have so long contested with the Kings Party) who will not out of conscience or Loyalty subscribe it; oppose and traduce the Presbyterian Government, as Papall, Antichristian and Tyrannicall; exempt all Sectaries whatsoever from all Penall Laws, in not repairing to any publike Ordinances or Churches, Authorize them freely to meet when and where they please in private Conventicles, (where running Priests and Jesuits may and will easily seduce them)

them) without the least danger or disturbance: and because their brethren of Scotland stick close to their *Presbyterian* Government and Covenant, and have closed with their King at last, according to their Covenant and Allegiance, and will not disinherit him as they have done; they thereupon have recalled *Cromwell* out of Ireland from prosecuting the Irish *Papists* and *Royalists*, made him their Generall instead of the Lord *Fairfax*, and sent him into Scotland, without any real provocation on their part, to invade them with an Army, where he entred without the least resistance, seized some of their Towns and Garrisons, provoked them oft times to fight, when they declined fighting, and at last gave them battle in their own Countrey, routed their whole Army, and though he lost not forty men in the fight, yet he and his Forces, out of their Christian charity cut down near 4000. of them in the pursuit, maimed and wounded above 5000. more, whereof many are since dead, and more like to die; took 10000. of them prisoners, 5000. whereof are sent Captives into *England*; since which he hath taken *Edenborough* and *Leith*, prosecutes his Victory with all vigour, sends up all the Scots Colours to Westminster, where they are publiquely hung up in the Hall for triumph. And for this great slaughter and overthrow of our *Presbyterian* Brethren, a solemn publike day of Thanksgiving hath been prescribed to be strictly observed throughout the Nation, and celebrated in many places accordingly, to involve the whole Nation in a double guilt of their blood: First by their Contributions to pay the Army sent against them, next by publike Thanksgiving to God for their destruction, and that in those very Churches and places, where we not long since lifted up our hands and subscribed our Names, when we took the forementioned *League and Covenant* in the presence of God himself, Angells and men, † sincerely, really, and constantly to preserve their Religion in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, Government, and with our Estates and lives mutually to preserve the Right and Priviledges of their Kingdome and *Parliament*, and to bring all to condigne punishment, as

† *A Collection of Ordinances*, p. 424. 425. 426.

Malignants, Incendiaries, and evill Instruments, who should indeavour the dividing of one of the Kingdomes from another, and each one of us, according to our place and Interest, to indeavour that both Kingdomes may remain conjoyned in a firm peace and Union to all posterity; and that we shall not suffer our selves directly or indirectly by whatsoever combination, perswasion, or terrour, to be divided or withdrawn from this blessed Union, which so much concerns the glory of God, and good of the Kingdomes, but shall all the daies of our lives zealously and constantly continue therein against all opposition, and promote the same according to our power against all lets and impediments whatsoever, &c. which how well and really we have performed, let that Almighty God, the Searcher of all hearts; in whose presence and Name we made and subscribed this Covenant, judge, and our own consciences, as we shall answer the contrary at that great day, if we seriously repent not of it now, whilest we have time, and space of repentance given us.

13. That upon the due consideration of all these Premises, we shall not conclude as some rigid Presbyterians do, perchance not without good grounds, That this invasive Warre with our Brethren of Scotland is an apparent violation of every clause and branch of the solemn Brotherly League and Covenant, and a very strange Act of Ingratitude and Injustice in invading their Kingdom, because they will have a King, according to their Ancient Constitution, Government, Laws, Covenant; and in indeavouring to deprive their King of the Kingdome of Scotland, because they have injuriously and perfidiously dispossessed him of his two Kingdoms of England and Ireland, against their National League and Covenant, and other oaths, for fear his possession of that his Hereditary Kingdom should be a meanes to regain the other two, (which is as unconscionable and unreasonable, as if a great Statesman or Commander should wrongfully deprive his Neighbour of all his Lands and goods in a third Parish or County, because he hath forcibly dispossessed

him

him of all his Lands and Goods in two other Parishes or Counties, that so he might never be able to recover them by suit of Law, having no means left to maintain his suit against him) but rather infer from thence,

First, that this War with *Scotland* is not only exceeding scandalous, dishonourable, and disadvantagious to all the Professors of the reformed Protestant Religion in both Kingdoms, and throughout the Christian world, to behold Protestant Brethren in Covenant thus invading, slaughtering and destroying each other upon such slender unchristian carnall grounds, but † ungodly too.

† 2 Chro. 11.4. c. 28.6,7,8,9, 10.11. 2 Sam. 26, 27. Acts 7.26. Gal 5. 14, 15. Obad. 10. &c. 1 Cor. 6.1.6 7,8. 1 John 3.12.

Secondly, That this invasive war, and great slaughter of the most zealous Scottish Presbyters, is a matter of greatest joy, triumph and advantage to the Jesuiticall, Popish and Prelaticall party, and tending much to the present promotion and future accomplishment of all their former frustrated, successelesse, and almost hopelesse malicious designs against the Puritanicall and Religious party in both Kingdoms, and the intended accomplishment of the Presbyterian Government, and Reformation of Religion in them, which they so much feared, and opposed by open force of Arms and secret policies, who will now indeavour to continue and heighten our open divisions (first plotted by them) till we have weakned and destroyed each other by our civill wars, and made our selves fit to be suddainly surprised and destroyed by their party, when we have consumed and undone each other.

* John 13. 34, 35. c. 15. 12. Rom. 12. 9, 10. c. 13. 8, 9, 10. Gal. 5.13, 14. Ephes. 1. 15. Col. 2. 2. 1 Thes. 3. 12. c. 4.9. Heb. 13. 1. James 2. 8. 1 Pet. 1.12. c. 2.17. c. 3.8. 1 John 3.11. 14 16,17,18. 23. c. 4.7.11. 12.16.20.21. c. 5.2. 2 John 5.

Thirdly, That in these respects, the Successes, great Victories, and slaughters in this unnaturall and unchristian Warre against our Protestant Brethren in Covenant, are no matter of publike joy, thanksgiving and triumph to the Conquerours, as some vainly conceive, but of greatest publike lamentation, Humiliation and mourning, (it being both unnaturall, uncharitable, and unchristian for Members of the same body of Christ, and sworn Christian Brethren, ingaged by Covenant, and God himself, to protect and * love each other with a pure heart fervently, to murther and destroy

each other, an argument of Gods heavy wrath against us, tending to our desolations, as the sacred Texts and Presidents compared together, will fully resolve the conscientious perusers of them. *Judg.* 21. 1. to 18. 2 *Sam.* 1. 12. 17, 18, *&c.* 2 *Sam.* 2. 12. to 29. to 3. 30. c. 39. c. 4. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. c. 19. 1, 2, 3, 4. 2 *Chron.* 28. 5. to 16. *Ezek.* 19. 12. 2. 33. 14. *Ezek.* 35. 1. to the end. *Obad.* 1. to the end. *Amos* 1. 9, 10, 11, 12. *Gen.* 37. 26, 27. 1 *Sam.* 14. 7. 7. 1 *Kings* 13. 30. *Psal.* 35. 14. *Isay* 9. 19, 20, 21. c. 19. 2. 3. 2 *Chron.* 15. 5, 6. *Jer.* 22. 17, 18. *Ezek.* 38. 21, 22. *Mich.* 1. 2. *&c.* *Zech.* 7. 9. to the end. *Mal.* 2. 10. *Mat.* 10. 21 *&c.* 1 *John* 3. 10, 21, 12. *Exod.* 2, 11, 12. *Judg.* 9. 5. to the end, a sad story, 1 *Kings* 12. 14. 15. 2 *Chron.* 11. 4. c. 21. 4. 12, 13, 14. *&c.* *Neh.* 5. 1. to 10. *Job* 6. 14, 15. *Prov.* 6. 16. 19. *Isay* 66. 5. *Acts* 7. 26. *Mat* 12. 25. *Mar.* 3. 24, 25, 26. *Gal* 5. 14, 15. *Jam.* 3. 14, 15, 16, 18, 18. c. 4. 1. 9, 10, 11.

Fourthly, that the continuance of this unbrotherly Warre with Scotland, will be the utter ruine of all the Presbyterian godly Party in that Nation; if God shall frown upon them; and the utter subvertion of the Presbyterian Government there, where the Prelaticall and Malignant party will soon get head and sway all, to the strengthning and reviving of their numerous party in England: or in case God give them after some overthrows, a glorious Victory over the English Independent Forces (as he did to the defeated *Israelites* over the *Benjamites*, *Judg.* 20.) it will certainly ruine all the *Independent* party in *England*, who have so cheated and tyrannized over all sorts of men, that they will never be able to make head again, if once defeated, and find all mens hearts and hands against them; for their manifold extravagances and tyrannicall proceedings against all ranks and degrees of men, & subverting the whole frame of our civill and Ecclesiasticall Government. And if the Presbyterian party in Scotland be much weakned and impoverished by the Victory, and the Presbyteriall Ministers and Gentry of *England* discountenanced, and thrust out of all power and reputation in the *interim*, as they are through their cowardize and folly; how far this may indanger and expose them

to

to the Popish and Prelaticall parties power and malice hereafter, is very considerable; and how far their present Contributions (though not voluntary) without distresse or forcible coaction against their King and Brethren of *Scotland*, and sitting still like idle neutrall *Spectators*, without contributing the least visible assistance to either of them, may be interpreted by their King and them, to be a breach of their Nationall *League* and *Covenant*, and of their *Allegiance* to their *Soveraign*, in case they should prevail, and restore the *King* to the *Crown* of *England* by their own Forces only, without the English Presbyterians assistance, to the indangering of their persons and Estates, and the losse of all their favour and respect from either (which their actuall conjunction with them might procure) to the ruine of the *Presbyterian*, as well as *Independent* party in *England*, and setting up of the Popish and Prelaticall Malignant party in Supreme power and favour in this Realme, is very considerable.

Fifthly, that if the Scottish Presbyters, and the Kings party in Scotland shall be both conquered by the English Independent Forces, and unable to defend themselves, or their *King*, and to settle him in his Kingdoms, then greater dangers are like to insue to our Religion and Kingdoms, then otherwise in some wise mens judgments; because the Independents (as their present violent proceedings manifest) will probably use their Presbyterian Brethren in England, no better then those in Scotland, and extirpate them if they can; and the King then will be necessitated to cast himself wholly upon the assistance of forraign States, and Kings, and their Forces, as his last refuge; which he hath hitherto declined as dangerous both to himself and his people. If he in this extremity throw himself upon any Forraigners, they must be either Papists only, or Protestants alone, or both of them joyntly.

If on Papists only, which some think most probable; First, in regard of his *Queen Mothers* great interest in that party, both in *France* and *Italy*, being of that Religion. Secondly,

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in respect of the open differences and Wars already between us, and *France*, and *Portugall*, two Popish Kingdoms, which are like to continue and grow greater every day: Thirdly, in respect of that parties constancy and fidelity to the King and his Father: Fourthly, because that party is most powerfull, and most likely to close with the King for the advantage of the Catholike cause, and reducing of *England* to it's former obedience to the See of Rome; so that without Gods infinite mercy, it will necessitate him for a full compliance with them: First, to match into some great Popish Family, upon the same and harder *Articles*, then were inforced on his Fathes by *Spain* or *France*: Secondly, to alter his Religion, and professe himself a *Roman Catholike*, and obedient son to the *Roman Pontife*, as King *Henry* the fourth of *France* did: Thirdly, to *Covenant* and ingage with them for an utter extirpation of the *Protestant Religion*, and of all *Independents* and *Presbyterians*, as not only Heretikes in Religion, but *Regicides*, *Traytors*, *Rebells*, *Covenant breakers*, *perjured persons*, who make no conscience of *Oaths*, *Vows*, *Protestations*, *Declarations*, and professed enemies to *Monarchy*, who have murthered his Father, banished his Mother, disinherited him of three Crowns; and indeavour to imbroil and subvert all Monarchies and Kingdoms in *Christendome*: Fourthly, to swear and ingage to set up and tolerate none but the *Roman Religion* in his Kingdoms, when he shall be restored to them by their assistance and Forces: Fifthly, to promise satisfaction of the greatest part of their expences in this war, out of the *Puritans* and *Protestants* estates, who have been in Arms, or any ways acted, or contributed assistance of moneys against his Father or him, and to make full reparations of all damages to such Papists, who have left their estates and fortunes to assist his Father or him: Upon these terms he may easily gain the joynt assistance of all Popish Kings, Kingdoms, and States in Europe, through the Popes powerfull mediation. And if hereupon, through their aid, he should so far prevail as to get into actuall possession of his Thrones and Kingdoms by the meer power of the

sword, without any terms or conditions by way of Treaty, of which there will be little probability; we can then expect nought else but these dismall consequences. First a totall eradication of our reformed *Religion*, and of all zealous professors thereof, especially such who have acted any waies against the King or his Father, a full repeal of all penal Laws, against Jesuites, Priests, Papists, and a publike profession and practise of the *Romish Religion*, and of that only throughout our Kingdoms. Secondly, a totall subversion of all our former Laws and Liberties, and a full exercise of all arbitrary and *tyrannicall* power over our lives and estates. Thirdly, an absolute confiscation of all our Lands and Estates, together with our lives, to satisfie the Kings debts, gratifie his Assistants, and repair the losses of his faithfull Catholikes, whom we have undone by adhering to his party. Fourthly, an absolute inslaving of our whole Nation to these forraign Conquerours; if not a totall banishment, and extirpation of them out of their native soil; the case of the *Ancient* † *Britains*, when conquered and driven out of this their Countrey by *Saxons*, and the extraordinary *Pestilence and Famine* sent amongst them for their sins, and then a dieu both to our *Religion and Nation*. But in case the King should not prevail to conquer us by their power, the least we can expect is, First, a continuall *long lasting Warre*, and open hostility by Land and Sea with all Romish Kings and States, the very charge whereof, now we are almost quite *undone* and beggered already, which will utterly ruine and undo us. Secondly, losse of Trade and Commerce with all those Kingdoms and States, with whom we are in hostility; which will utterly break us in one year or two for want of venting our Native commodities, our chiefest inablement to *maintain* the Wars. Thirdly, intolerable *successant* Taxes of all sorts, which will every moneth grow heavier and greater then other, which accompanied with want of Trade, will cause a generall Insurrection at last both of poor and rich against those in power, and put all into *confusion*, to the enemies great advantage. Fourthly, a necessity of seizing and selling all Col-

† Gildas. de excidio Britanniæ. Fox Acts & Monuments. Vol. 1.

ledges, Corporations, Companies, Hoſpitalls and Gleab-Lands throughout the Realm; and of new *Projects* to make new *Delinquents*, of purpoſe to raiſe moneys to defray the extraordinary expences of the Armies and Navies: And what garboils this will produce, all prudent perſons may eaſily conjecture. Fiftly, a generall decay of Religion, Piety, Learning, Law, and all Arts, Sciences, Trades. Sixthly, an extraordinary new effuſion of Chriſtian bloud. Seventhly, an inundation of all kind of ſin, wickedneſſe, Atheiſm, Hereſie, Blaſphemy, Murders, Rapes, Robberies, Oppreſſions, Whoredome, Drunkenneſſe, Diſſoluteneſſe, Barbarouſneſſe, and diſobedience to Laws, Magiſtrates, Miniſters, Parents, and other diſorders. Eighthly, Free-quarter, inſolences of Souldiers, ſpoiling, plundring, if not peſtilence and famine, the uſuall Concomitants of Warre, which will reduce us to a condition worſe then nothing in concluſion.

If he caſt himſelf upon Forraign Proteſtant Kings, Princes and States alone, the far better, though unlikelier of the two; yet this will certainly prove, 1. A great diſhonour to God, and ſcandall to reformed Religion, to ſee them ſo unnaturall and unchriſtian as to imbrue their hands in one anothers bloud. 2. An extraordinary ground of joy and triumph to the Pope and his Confederates, to behold their enemies thus murthering, invading, and deſtroying each other by their mutuall diſſentions; when they by all their power and policy were unable to accompliſh their ruine, and do them ſo great miſchief. 3. A great indangering of all the Proteſtant Churches and States in Europe, by incouraging their Popiſh Adverſaries to invade and ruine them, whileſt thus ingaged in an unbrotherly and unchriſtian Warre between themſelves, and *weakening*, *impoveriſhing* and *deſtroying* each other. 5. An effuſion of much precious Proteſtant bloud, which will † cry for *vengeance* to heaven againſt the originall Authors and Occaſioners of ſuch a Warre. 6. If the King ſhall inthrone himſelf, and regain his Kingdomes by their aſſiſtance; though the profeſſion of the Proteſtant Religion may ſtill be continued, yet we may juſtly fear, 1. That the

† Gen. 4. 10, 11. Jer. 51. 35. Ezek. 35, 5. 6, 7, 8, 9.

the purity and power of Religion will be much abated. 2. That our Lawes and Liberties will be much indangered and Eclipſed. 3. Our eſtates confiſcated to make them reparations, and ſatisfie the Kings Ingagements. 4. Their removall hence will be diſputable, when once poſſeſſed of our Country; as the hiſtory of the Danes invaſions of this Iſland heretofore, and the Saxons full poſſeſſion thereof, with the Britains expulſion, will manifeſt. 5. If the King and they be repulſed by us, yet this will prove a ſeminary of laſting wars and breaches, between us and moſt Proteſtant Kingdoms and States; It will hinder all commerce between them and us, to the deſtruction of Merchandize and Trade; deſtroy the Proteſtants ſtrength and intereſt; impoveriſh us through Taxes, fill us with diſcontents, augment our diviſions, if not conclude in our beggery and ruine.

If he throw himſelf upon forraign Papiſts and Proteſtants joyntly, then, Firſt, the Wars are like to be more generall, dangerous and coſtly to us, and of longer continuance. Secondly, The diviſions and dangers from at home are like to prove the greater, ſince all diſcontented and oppreſſed Proteſtants and Papiſts will then be apt upon all occaſions and advantages to joyn with that forraign party they beſt affect, and from whom they may expect the moſt favour and the beſt conditions. Thirdly, If the King prevail, then both Parties muſt be ſatisfied, and his debts defrayed out of our eſtates; both gratified with a free toleration and exerciſe of that Religion throughout his Realms as both ſides profeſſe: and between them both all will be plundered, impoveriſhed, ruined, and perchance inforced to quit the whole Kingdom to one or both of them, who will challenge an intereſt therein by conqueſt and the longeſt ſword, and hardly part with it when once poſſeſſed thereof. Fourthly, If the King and they ſhould be foiled by us, yet the wars and differences would ſurvive, all commerce and trading loſt, Armies and Navies muſt ſtill be maintained, and Garriſons in all our Kingdoms to ſecure us; taxes, oppreſſions, and all publike grievances continued and

multiplied, and thereby new intestine commotions raised; which of themselves alone will destroy us without any other enemy.

And suppose the King himself should miscarry in these Warres, yet the Title and Right of the Crowns of our three Kingdoms surviving to his Brothers, or if they miscarry, to his Sister, matched to the Prince of *Aurenge*; or if they all should fail, *descending* to the Queen of Bohemia, and Prince Elector *Palatine*; their severall new Titles and Interests will find means to infest us with new Warres, till they have either obtained their rights, or ruined both themselves and us. So that unlesse God put so much wildome, and spirit to the English Nation, as to restore the King to his just Rights upon safe and honourable terms, according to their *Oaths*, *Covenant*, *Protestations*, *Declarations* to all the world, and Principles of their Religion; we can in humane probability expect nought else, but the utter ruine, both of our *Religion*, *Nation*, *Kingdoms*, and totall extirpation by Forraign enemies.

And certainly if we seriously consider, 1. The infinite divisions, discontents, & oppressions that are every where amongst us. 2. The Heresies, Blasphemies, Sects, and Schisms that are lately broached, and publikely *countenanced* by us. 3. The Generall contempt and neglect of the publike *Ordinances* of God, and free toleration granted to all to withdraw themselves from them, without the least censure or punishment. 4. The generall contempt, hatred, discountenancing, reviling, and persecuting of godly and faithfull Ministers throughout the Nation, and the *snares* that are daily laid to intrap and ruine them. 5. The extraordinary Apostacy of many Professors, from the truth, purity, and power of Religion, almost to professed *Atheism*, contempt of the Word, Prayer, Preaching, Sacraments, and all other *Ordinances*, to meer *licentiousnesse*, *lukewarmnesse*, and *Prophanenesse*. 6. The *generall inclination* of the people to errours, Enthusiasmes, and seducing spirits. 7. The little cordiall reall love and affection between Professors of *Religion*, and the great animosi-

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ties, hatreds and divisions amongst them, both in *Opinion*, *Practise* and *affection*. 8. The little *conscience* of Oaths, Protestations, Covenants, Promises; and great hypocrisie, covetousnesse, oppression, self-seeking, envy, hatred, and malice that is in the Nation, and amongst those especially, who professe themselves Saints of the highest form. 9. The universall inundation of all kind of *sin* and *wickednesse*, and open profession thereof in all places. 10. The extraordinary *Injustice*, *Tyranny*, *Cruelty* and *Mercilesnesse* that all parts of the Land complain of, and groan under. 11. The great effusion of Christian bloud, and of the bloud of our Christian Brethren in *Covenant*, that our whole Land is polluted with; and our rejoycing in this bloud-guiltinesse, instead of repenting and mourning for it. 12. Our present decay of Trade and Merchandize. 13. Our intolerable Taxes and Impositions of all sorts. 14. The extreme poverty of our Kingdom, and increase of poor people in all parts, which have little work or none, and will not starve. 15. The divisions of our Forces into Ireland and Scotland, where *standing Armies* and *Garrisons* must be constantly maintained for fear of revolt. 16. Our great breaches with France and Portugall, and no good quarter with any Forraign States or Kingdomes, which as yet will neither own, nor hold full and open correspondency with our new Governours or Government. 17. The revolt of most of our Forraign plantations from us, and the late Declaration against them, as Traytors, and Rebells, who count us such. 18. The Negotiations with the Pope and Popish Kingdomes, and most Protestant Princes and States to incense them all against us, as enemies to all Magistracy and publike Government, and to *mankind* it self, as *Salmatius* hath published us in print. 19. The spreading the pestilence in many places, and the feared famine throughout the Realm. 20. The manifold injuries and affronts offered to all the Nobility, and most of the Gentry of the Nation, and the whole Nation it self, in the change of the *Government*, without and against their *consent*, in continuing and increasing their burthens, Taxes, and out-lawing many of them, because they

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will not subscribe the Ingagement, in erecting new High Courts to take away their lives, without any legall Triall by their Peers, for offences punishable by no common Law. 21. The Execution of so many Protestants, and not of one Papist whatsoever by these or other Courts of Justice; though the chief contrivers of our late unhappy Wars, and *discontinuance* of all Capitall proceedings against Priests and Jesuites, since the abolishing of the Oaths of *Supremacy* and *Allegiance*, made principally against them and the Popes Usurpations and practises. 22. The injustice of our present cause and Warre, meerly against Monarchy, Presbytery, and old English Peers and Parliaments, purposely to support the present Government, set up by the meer power of the sword, yea founded on the bloud of a Protestant King, and ruine of the very best of Parliaments, to prevent a settlement of peace and Religion by an unbloudy Treaty. And then compare them with the *Premises*, and Cardinall *Richelieu* his Instructions and advice to the late French King, a little before his death, (published by an Italian of good note, and printed in Italy. *Anno.* 1645.) to foment the late differences between the late King and Parliament all he could; and if possible by the solicitation of his instruments, to draw the Commons to change our Monarchy into a meer Republike, thereby to imbroil all our Kingdomes in civill Warres against each other, as the only and best policy of all, to weaken and destroy both our power and Religion, and advance the interest of France and Catholike Religion, which we see now accomplished according to his advice; and then we have just cause to fear an inevitable approaching ruine, both of our Religion and Nation, notwithstanding our late Victories and Successes; which do but weaken, impoverish, destroy our selves, and promote the designs of our common enemies, unlesse God give us a timely sight and Reformation of this our impolitick oversight, and incline our hearts to a generall peace and unity throughout our Kingdome, by restoring every man to his just right and inheritance, from the highest to the lowest, and abolishing all future seeds and occasions

casions of our inteſtine Warres: The ſerious conſideration of all which Premiſes, are a ſufficient ſatisfactory Apology for all Miniſters or others, now queſtioned for the Non-obſervance of the late Thankſgiving day, for the great rout and ſlaughter of our Proteſtant Presbyterian Brethren of Scotland, againſt all their perſecutors. We ſhall therefore cloſe up all with *Abners* Speech to *Joab*, in caſe of the civill Wars between the Houſe of *David* and *Saul*; wherein the Iſraelites (of the ſame Religion and Nation) unnaturally fought and ſlew each other, *Ioabs* ſouldiers purſuing and ſlaughtering *Abners*, whom they had diſcomfited in battell, addreſſing to thoſe in preſent power, 2 *Sam.*2.26,27,28. Then *Abner* called to *Joab*, and ſaid, ſhall the ſword devoure for ever? knoweſt thou not that it will be bitterneſſe in the latter end? how long ſhall it be then ere thou bid the people return from following their Brethren? And *Ioab* ſaid, as God liveth, unleſſe thou hadſt ſpoken, ſurely then in the morning the people had gone up every one from following their Brethren. So *Ioab* blew a trumpet, and all the people ſtood ſtill, AND PURSUED AFTER *ISRAEL* NO MORE, NEITHER FOUGHT THEY ANY MORE: which we heartily pray may be the fruit and iſſue of theſe ſad and ſerious Meditations of thoſe who drive on no other deſign, but the preſervation of Religion and their native Countrey from totall and finall deſolation.

FINIS.